

**BOARD POLICY 6146.1: High School Graduation Requirements**  
**Comparison Chart**  
 Section: Instruction

**SUMMARY OF UPDATE**

**Summary of Update:** Policy updated to change "foreign language" to "world language" to reflect current terminology in law, add material regarding the provision of credits towards community service hours for completion of a course in community emergency response training, and reflect **NEW LAW (AB 1350, 2020)** which authorizes districts to award a retroactive diploma to students who were in good standing and on track to graduate at the end of the 2019-20 school year but were unable to complete the statewide graduation requirements due to COVID- 19.

PARA	Section	Sub-Section	June 16, 2015 CURRENT VERSION	December 2020 REVISED VERSION	CSBA MODIFICATIONS and/or NOTES
1			The Governing Board desires to prepare each student to obtain a diploma of high school graduation in order to provide students with opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment.	The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to successfully complete the high school course of study and obtain a diploma that represents their educational achievement and increases their opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.	CSBA NOTE: The following policy is for use by districts that maintain grades 9-12.
			<b><u>Course Requirements</u></b>	<b>No change</b>	
1			To obtain a diploma of graduation from high school, students shall complete at least the following courses in grades 9 through 12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified:	To obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified:	CSBA NOTE: Education Code 51225.3 specifies the courses that a student is required to complete in order to graduate from high school as listed in items #1-6 below.  Pursuant to Education Code 66204, each district that maintains a high school is also required to develop a process for submitting courses to the University of California to ensure that they align with the "a-g" course requirements for college admission.
	1		Four courses in English	<b>No change</b>	
	2		Three courses in mathematics (This requirement will go into effect for the 2015-	<b>No change</b>	

		16 school year. Students graduating during the 2017-18 school year and after will be subject to this requirement.)		
	2	Beginning in the 2003-04 school year, at least one mathematics course, or a combination of two mathematics courses, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I.	At least one mathematics course, or a combination of the two mathematics courses, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I or Mathematics I. Completion of such coursework prior to grade 9 shall satisfy the Algebra I or Mathematics I requirement, but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12.	
	2	Completion, prior to grade 9, of algebra coursework that meets or exceeds state academic content standards shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete three mathematics courses in grades 9-12	Students may be awarded up to one mathematics course credit for successful completion of an approved computer science course that is classified as a "category g" course based on the "a-g" course requirements for college admission.	CSBA NOTE: The following optional paragraph is for use only by districts that require more than two courses in mathematics for graduation and should be deleted by other districts. Pursuant to Education Code 51225.3 and 51225.35, a district that requires more than two courses in mathematics may award up to one mathematics course credit for an approved computer science course, as defined. Any such course must have been approved by the University of California as a "category c" (mathematics) course in the university's "a-g" course admission criteria; see BP 6143 - Courses of Study.
	3	Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences	<b>No change</b>	
	4	Three courses in social studies, including United States history and geography; world history, culture and geography; a one-semester course in American government and civics; and a one-semester course in economics	Three courses in social studies, including United States history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a one-semester course in American government and civics; and a one-semester course in economics	
	5	One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language or American Sign Language	One course in visual or performing arts, world language, or career technical education	CSBA NOTE: Education Code 51225.3 authorizes the Board to include a course in

			<p>(CTE). For purposes of this requirement, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in world language.</p>	<p>career technical education (CTE) as an alternative to the visual or performing arts or world language course requirement for high school graduation. If the Board chooses to do so, it must, at a regular Board meeting prior to allowing a CTE course as an alternative, notify parents/guardians, students, teachers, and the public of information specified in Education Code 51225.3. In addition, the information must be included in the district's annual notification to parents/guardians pursuant to Education Code 48980; see the accompanying administrative regulation. Districts that do not allow this alternative course requirement should delete references to CTE in item #5 below.</p> <p>The CTE course may be offered through different means, including a district-operated program, regional occupational center or program, or county office of education program pursuant to a joint powers agreement. See BP/AR 6178 - Career Technical Education and BP 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program for program details pertaining to CTE.</p>
			<p>To be counted towards meeting graduation requirements, a CTE course shall be aligned to the CTE model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the State Board of Education.</p>	
	6	<p>Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been exempted pursuant to Education Code 51241</p>	<p>Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code</p>	<p>CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 51225.3, the Board may prescribe additional coursework (e.g., health education, service learning) or other requirements (e.g., portfolios or senior projects) that district students must complete in order to obtain a</p>

				<p>diploma. If the Board does so, such courses or projects should be listed below.</p> <p>If the district requires a course in health education for graduation, Education Code 51225.36 requires that the district include instruction in sexual harassment and violence, including, but not limited to, information on the affirmative consent standard pursuant to Education Code 67386. See BP 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction. In addition, pursuant to Education Code 51225.6, a district that requires a course in health education for graduation is required to include instruction in compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation. See AR 6143 - Courses of Study.</p> <p>Pursuant to Education Code 51230, if the district requires the completion of community service hours for high school graduation, the district may provide a student with credit towards that requirement for completion of a course in community emergency response training. However, if the district chooses to offer credit for the completion of such a course, the Board is still obligated to notify parents/guardians, students, teachers, and the public of information specified in Education Code 51225.3.</p>
2		Because the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of some students, the Board shall provide alternative means for the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law.	Because the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of some students, the Board shall provide alternative means for the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law.	CSBA NOTE: Education Code 51225.3 requires the Board to adopt alternative means for students to complete the prescribed course of study. See BP/AR 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation.
			<b><u>Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements</u></b>	

District students are required to complete graduation course requirements specified above, including the requirements imposed by Education Code 51225.3 and those adopted by the Board. However, a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student who transfers into the district or between district schools any time after completing the second year of high school, or a newly arrived immigrant student who is in the third or fourth year of high school and is participating in a newcomer program, shall be exempted from any graduation requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements. This exemption shall not apply if the Superintendent or designee makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school. Within 30 days of the transfer or of the commencement of participation in a newcomer program, as applicable, the Superintendent or designee shall notify any eligible student of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for it.

CSBA NOTE: Education Code 51225.1 requires the district to exempt from any district-adopted graduation requirements that are in addition to the state requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3 a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student who transfers into the district or between district high schools any time after completing the second year of high school, or an immigrant student who is in the third or fourth year of high school and is participating in a newcomer program (i.e., a program designed to meet the academic and transitional needs of newly arrived immigrant students that has as a primary objective the development of English language proficiency). This exemption does not apply if the Superintendent or designee makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school. Also see AR 6173 - Education for Homeless Children, AR 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth, AR 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families, AR 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students, and AR 6175 - Migrant Education Program.

Pursuant to Education Code 51225.1, within 30 calendar days of the transfer of a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student, or within 30 days of a student beginning participation in a newcomer program, the district is required to provide notice to the student, the person holding the right to make education decisions for the student, and the student's social

				<p>worker or probation officer of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for it. If the district fails to provide that notification, the student will be eligible for the exemption once notified, even if the notification is received after the termination of the court's jurisdiction over the foster youth or former juvenile court school student, after the homeless student ceases to be homeless, or after the student no longer meets the definition of a child of a military family, a migrant student, or a student participating in a newcomer program, as applicable.</p> <p>Education Code 51225.1 also provides that, if an exempted student completes the statewide coursework requirements before the end of the fourth year of high school, the district or a district school must not require or request that the student graduate before the end of the fourth year of high school.</p> <p>Any complaint alleging the district's failure to comply with the requirements of Education Code 51225.1 may be filed using the district's uniform complaint procedures pursuant to 5 CCR 4600-4670. See BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.</p>
3		Each student completing grade 12 shall have successfully passed the state exit examination in language arts and mathematics as a condition of high school graduation.	<b>Delete</b>	
4		Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student in grade 7-12 who does not demonstrate "sufficient progress," as defined	<b>Delete</b>	

		in Board policy, toward passing the exit examination.		
5		Students who have not passed one or both parts of the exit exam by the end of grade 12 shall have the opportunity to receive intensive instruction and services for up to two consecutive academic years after completion of grade 12 or until they have passed both parts of the exam, whichever comes first.	Delete	
6		In addition to intensive remedial instruction, the district shall offer students who have passed all state and local graduation requirements except for passage of one or both parts of the exit exam the following options beyond their regular senior year until they pass the exam: Adult Education.	Delete	
7		The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board regarding the number of students who have fulfilled all local and state graduation requirements except for the passage of the exit exam and the resources that have been offered to such students.	Delete	
		<b><u>Certificates of Completion</u></b>	Delete	
1		Students who have passed all the district's course requirements by the end of their senior year but are unable to pass the high school exit exam shall receive a certificate of completion.	Delete	
2		The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board regarding the number of students receiving a certificate of completion and the resources that have been offered to such students.	Delete	
		<b><u>Retroactive Diplomas</u></b>	No change	

1			The district may retroactively grant a high school diploma to a former student who was interned by order of the federal government during World War II or who is an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that he/she was enrolled in a district school immediately preceding the internment or military service and he/she did not receive a diploma because his/her education was interrupted due to the internment or military service.	Any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 through 2014-15 school year and met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination shall be granted a high school diploma.	
2			In addition, the Board may retroactively grant a diploma to a deceased former student who satisfies the above conditions. The diploma shall be received by the deceased student's next of kin.	In addition, the district may retroactively grant high school diplomas to former students who:	CSBA NOTE: Items #1-4 below are optional and may be revised to reflect district practice.
				1. Departed California against their will while in grade 12 and did not receive a diploma because the departure interrupted their education, provided that they were in good academic standing at the time of the departure	
				Persons may be considered to have departed California against their will if they were in custody of a government agency and were transferred to another state, were subject to a lawful order from a court or government agency that authorized their removal from California, were subject to a lawful order and were permitted to depart California before being removed from California pursuant to the lawful order, were removed or were permitted to depart voluntarily pursuant to the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, or departed due to other circumstances	



				determined by the district that are consistent with the purposes of Education Code 48204.4.	
				In determining whether to award a diploma under these circumstances, the Superintendent or designee shall consider any coursework that may have been completed outside of the United States or through online or virtual courses.	
				2. Were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or are honorably discharged veterans of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that they were enrolled in a district school immediately preceding the internment or military service and did not receive a diploma because their education was interrupted due to the internment or military service in those wars	
				Deceased former students who satisfy these conditions may be granted a retroactive diploma to be received by their next of kin.	
				3. Are veterans who entered the military service of the United States while in grade 12 and who had satisfactorily completed the first half of the work required for grade 12 in a district school	
				4. Were in their senior year of high school during the 2019-20 school year, were in good academic standing and on track to graduate at the end of the 2019-20 school year as of March 1, 2020, and were unable to complete the statewide graduation requirements as a result of the COVID-19 crisis	CSBA NOTE: Education Code 51430, as amended by AB 1350 (Ch. 66, Statutes of 2020), authorizes districts Policy Reference Disclaimer: to award a retroactive diploma under the circumstances described in item #4 below.
				<b><u>Honorary Diplomas</u></b>	

				The Board may grant an honorary high school diploma to:	CSBA NOTE: The following optional section reflects the Board's authority to confer honorary high school diplomas pursuant to Education Code 51225.5 and may be revised to reflect district practice.
				1. An international exchange student who has not completed the course of study ordinarily required for graduation and who is returning to the student's home country following the completion of one academic school year in the district	
				2. A student who is terminally ill	
				The honorary diploma shall be clearly distinguishable from the regular diploma of graduation awarded by the district.	